

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3778

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TAGS: NATO, MARR, TU
SUBJ: ECEVIT STATEMENTS ON NATO DECLARATION

REF: (A) STATE 124919 (DTG 170029Z MAY 78) (NOTAL)
B. STATE 124245 (DTG 161846Z MAY 78)(NOTAL)
C. ANKARA 3737 (DTG 161300Z MAY 78) (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DAILY "MILLIYET" MAY 17 CARRIES
FOLLOWING QUOTATIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S AIRPORT PRESS
CONFERENCE IN VIENNA ON MAY 16:

A. ON GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS: "THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE
IS CONTINUING WITH UNITED STATES INTERFERENCE, AND THE UNITED
STATES IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS DISPUTE."

B. ON THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP): "THERE IS
AN EFFORT IN NATO TO PREPARE A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEARS.
TECHNICAL STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME
AND HAVE ABOUT REACHED THE FINAL STAGE. WE HAVE ALREADY STATED
THAT WE CANNOT EXPRESS OUR OPINIONS ON THE MERITS (OF THE LTDP),
EVEN IF WE PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS AND GIVE OUR VIEWS ON CERTAIN
TECHNICAL MATTERS, BEFORE THE ROLE AND STATUS OF TURKEY WITHIN
NATO IS CLARIFIED, AND WE CANNOT MAINTAIN OUR CONTRIBUTION (TO
NATO) BEFORE THE ISSUE OF THE EMBARGO IS DECIDED."

C. ON A NATO DECLARATION: "FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED
THAT A JOINT DECLARATION HAS BEEN DRAFTED FOR THE FORTHCOMING NATO
COUNCIL (MEETING). BUT THERE WERE SOME POINTS IN THIS DECLARATION
THAT WE FOUND INAPPROPRIATE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF DETENTE TO WHICH
WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. FOR THIS REASON, WE STATED THAT WE
COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS JOINT DECLARATION."

D. ON TURKEY'S "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT": "WHILE WE ARE (IN THE
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PROCESS OF) ELABORATING OUR OWN DEFENSE CONCEPT, WE HAVE, DESPITE
EVERYTHING, DECIDED TO REMAIN IN NATO." ACKNOWLEDGING THAT NATO IS
STILL MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD WORLD PEACE, ECEVIT ADDED:
"HOWEVER, OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO WILL DIMINISH CONSIDERABLY.
THE NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT OF TURKEY HAS BEEN PREPARED IN SUCH A MANNER
AS NOT TO DISRUPT WORLD PEACE AND NOT TO CREATE PROBLEMS IN THIS
RESPECT. HENCEFORTH, TURKEY WILL NOT DEPEND ON A SINGLE SOURCE
FOR ACQUIRING ARMAMENTS AND (TURKEY) WILL TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES."

E. ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE EMBARGO: "IT IS ERRONEOUS
TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY TURKEY SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.
IF THE UNITED STATES WANTS TURKEY TO REMAIN IN NATO, THE
UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SERIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY
DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO. WHILE THE UNITED
STATES SENATE IS DECIDING TO GIVE MILITARY AID TO SAUDI ARABIA, ITS
ATTITUDE ON MAINTAINING THE ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED ON TURKEY IS A
STRANGE ONE." END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: "MILLIYET" REPORT OF MAY 16,
CONTAINED IN PARA 4 OF REF C, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS SOURCE OF
ANATOLIAN NEWS AGENCY ITEM (REF B), WAS WRITTEN BY ORSAN OYMEN WHO
IS CONSIDERED TO BE TURKEY'S PREMIER INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER. OYMEN

HAS IN PAST BEEN ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO INSIDE INFORMATION AND SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. FACT THAT ONLY "MILLIYET" CARRIED STORY (AS AN "EXCLUSIVE") LINKING TURKISH RESERVATIONS ON THE LTDP WITH A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE INDICATES A LEAK AS OPPOSED TO AN ECEVIT PUBLIC STATEMENT.

3. NEVERTHELESS, ECEVIT'S REMARKS FROM VIENNA, AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, TAKEN BY THEMSELVES ARE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR CONCERN. WHILE ECEVIT APPARENTLY DID NOT REFER TO A PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE, HE USED THE PHRASE "JOINT DECLARATIIIO" ("ORTAK DEKLARASYON") WHICH, IN THIS SITUATION, IS AMBIGUOUS AS IT COULD REFER TO THE STANDARD NATO COMMUNIQUE OR THE PROPOSED WASHINGTON DECLARATION. WE ARE SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF ECEVIT'S REMARKS, AS WELL AS REITERATING THE POINTS MADE IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR ESENBEL (REF A), IN CONTACTS WITH SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.
SPIERS

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